

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 07SANSALVADOR394, EL SALVADOR AGREES TO SOFA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

**#07SANSALVADOR394.**

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">07SANSALVADOR394</a>	<a href="#">2007-03-01 22:29</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy San Salvador</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201108/notas/5468/>

VZCZCXYZ0014  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSN #0394 0602229  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 012229Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5364  
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 000394

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR L/PM THOMAS HERALD, L/T DAPHNE COOK, AND DOD  
FOR ISA/WHA WALTER EARLE AND COL. FERNANDO GONZALEZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/01/2017  
TAGS: [KTIA](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ES](#)  
SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR AGREES TO SOFA

B. SAN SALVADOR 49

C. 06 STATE 163912

Classified By: DCM Michael A. Butler for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (SBU) The Saca administration communicated to the Embassy late February 28 that the GOES would agree to the proposed Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) text without further changes. On March 1, the administration presented the Agreement in the Legislative Assembly, where it passed by a vote of 49 in favor and 26 against. ARENA's 34 deputies were joined by their center-right PCN allies' 10 seats, plus the 5 deputies of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), while 26 FMLN members voted nay. Prior to the vote, the FMLN stridently complained that the Agreement represented a possible threat to Salvadoran sovereignty, and should first be studied carefully by the Assembly's International Relations Committee. The PCN replied that the humanitarian benefits of U.S. military exercises were too important to put at risk, and that the Assembly should stop wasting time passing temporary agreements every two years. Post expects receipt of the MFA's final dipnote, accepting the terms of the SOFA, no later than COB March 2. Post will immediately forward this dipnote, along with a certified copy of post's original note proposing the compromise text in reftel A to L/T in the Department.

2. (C) COMMENT: This SOFA is only the second such agreement in the Western Hemisphere (the other being Trinidad and Tobago). Our military-to-military relations remain excellent, and the passage of the SOFA will greatly facilitate the continuation of bilateral exercises for the foreseeable future. The larger DOD exercises in El Salvador, most of which are humanitarian in nature (such as the MEDRETE and New Horizons exercises), are tremendously popular here, and have become an important facet in our bilateral relationship. Negotiation of the SOFA and its final passage required extensive Embassy intervention at all levels, including the direct efforts by the Ambassador with President Saca. Throughout the process, the Saca administration privately expressed concerns regarding sovereignty issues and the duty-free status of contractors under the Agreement. In the end, the grassroots enthusiasm for bilateral humanitarian military exercises and the overall predominance of El Salvador's bilateral relationship with the U.S. (the latter of which is a significant source of ARENA's popularity) tipped the scales in our favor.  
Glazer